



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

****NEWS RELEASE****

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Panel named to review Florence dissolution order

First hearings before seven-member review board are Aug. 24

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster today announced members of and the schedule of activities for the review board that will consider the resolution to close the Florence County School District in northern Wisconsin in July 2006.

The seven-member panel is made up of the state superintendent or her designee and six elected school board members who serve on the State Superintendent's School District Boundary Appeal Board. That statewide board has one representative from each of the state's 12 cooperative educational service agencies (CESAs) and is balanced among small, medium, and large school districts. In addition to Burmaster's designee, Deputy State Superintendent Tony Evers, those serving on the review board for the School District of Florence dissolution are

- Dennis Kavanaugh, Oshkosh Area School District, CESA 6;
- Evelyn Pertzsch, Onalaska School District, CESA 4;
- Patricia Silver, Richland School District, CESA 3;
- Mary Thurmaier, Stevens Point Area School District, CESA 5;
- Therese Travia, South Milwaukee School District, CESA 1; and
- Walter Wetzel, Neillsville School District, CESA 10.

The first public hearing before the board will be held Aug. 24 in Florence from 1 to 4 p.m. and 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Two additional hearings will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sept. 13 and Oct. 18, also in Florence. The board will continue to meet in Florence in November, December, and January, as needed, to reach a decision before Jan. 15 to either affirm or deny the Florence County School Board's resolution to dissolve the district.

(more)

If the review panel affirms the dissolution, it must assign the school district's territory, assets, and liabilities to one or more other school districts and determine employment status for Florence School District employees.

On July 11, the Florence County School Board adopted a resolution to dissolve the school district effective July 1, 2006. The last time a school district dissolved was on July 1, 1990, when the Ondossagan School District was merged with the Ashland, Drummond, and Washburn school districts.

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